

MONTHS IN REVIEW

MAY / JUNE

compiled by April Long and Kristyn Glanville

06.01 ☀ Following a tour of Alice Springs, Opposition leader Tony Abbott calls for a second intervention to address inadequate living standards, alcohol abuse and violence in remote Aboriginal Communities.

04.05 ☀ There are concerns by the local Aboriginal Community regarding the construction of a Pacific Highway Bypass at Bulahdelah which may run through a sacred site at Allum Mountain. This is at odds with statements made by the Karuah Aboriginal Land Council that the site is not a sacred site.

- ☀ Disputes continue between the Plains Clans of the Wonnarua People and the Wonnarua Nation as to who are the traditional owners of the proposed Ashton Coal Mine in the Hunter Valley.

05.05 ☀ The Apudthama Land Trust and mining company Cape Alumina reach an agreement in Cape York over compensation and conduct agreements for a Bauxite mine.

06.05 ☀ The traditional owners of James Price Point (Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr native title claim group) reach a consent agreement with the State Government and Woodside Petroleum, who seek to build a \$30 billion gas precinct in the Kimberleys. In return for relinquishing their native title interests in 3,500ha of land and water (approximately 1.5% of the GJJ native title claim area), they will receive benefits including environmental and cultural heritage engagement in the precinct. The deal is worth over \$1.5 billion for traditional owners.

07.05 ☀ Traditional owners oppose a proposed nuclear waste dump near Tennant Creek, NT, claiming a lack of consultation with all of the clans who are traditional owners. Whilst the Ngapa have been consulted and offered compensation, the Yapa Yapa and other traditional owners were not. Legal action has commenced.

11.05 ☀ A Native Title consent determination is made in Coober Pedy, South Australia. The Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara claim covers approximately 75,991 sq kilometres and includes fishing, hunting, ceremonial and camping rights.

13.05 ☀ A New Western Australian ('WA') program has begun mentoring young at-risk Indigenous men to learn more about their culture and learn support skills for themselves and others. The program seeks to provide the men with role models and the opportunity to gain a TAFE qualification in community services.

- ☀ The WA government announce alcohol restrictions to be introduced or extended in the East Pilbara, Jigalong and Kunawarriritji remote Aboriginal communities.

- ☀ The Australian Institute of Criminology finds that NT has the highest rates of youth detention, with Indigenous youths 20 times more likely to be in detention.

- ☀ There is controversy over the SIHIP housing program, as the 'Stop the Intervention Collective Sydney' lobby group claim that Indigenous

renovation and construction workers are being underpaid for their work and having their work payments quarantined under Centrelink rules rather than paid as wages.

14.05 ☀ There are fears for the protection of ancient Aboriginal Rock art in the Burrup Peninsula, as Woodside Petroleum seeks to expand its liquefied natural gas project into the area.

17.05 ☀ Indigenous Law Centre Director Megan Davis attended her first session at the United Nations (UN) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, being the first Indigenous woman to be elected to the forum.

19.05 ☀ The Coalition government in Victoria states that it is no longer mandated for MPs to acknowledge the traditional land owners at public events, despite it being custom for MPs to do so under the previous government.

30.05 ☀ Former Prime Minister Paul Keating delivers the 2011 Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration, highlighting in his speech the difficult road to adequate recognition of Native Title through legislation and the courts, criticizing the Howard Government and others as giving too little consideration to Indigenous interests in land.

03.06 ☀ A significant native title agreement has been made between Rio Tinto Iron Ore and traditional owner groups in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

- ☀ The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Limited urges the Victorian Government to rule out mandatory minimum sentences for juvenile offenders aged 16 and 17.

- ☀ Mabo Day – It's been 19 years since Eddie Mabo's landmark native title case, where the High Court overturned the concept of 'terra nullius' or 'no one's land'.

07.06 ☀ One of the largest parcels of Aboriginal land in the history of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976* (NT) has been returned to traditional owners. Two of the four parcels were some of the earliest claims lodged under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976* (NT). This was a historic day for the Arrernte peoples of Central Australia and a milestone in the history of land rights in Australia.

09.06 ☀ Attorney-General Robert McClelland announced more than \$1.1 million in new funding to continue a range of projects that help prevent family violence in regional and remote Indigenous communities.

17.06 ☀ A South Australian Aboriginal group is hoping to set a national precedent, by seeking compensation for land unable to be claimed as Native Title. The De Rose Hill Ilpalka Aboriginal Corporation has lodged a Native Title compensation claim with the federal court.

21.06 ☀ The ACT has welcomed its first Indigenous Member of the Legislative Assembly. Canberra dentist Chris Bourke was elected to the seat of Ginninderra.